



Mike Beebe
Governor

State of Arkansas

ARKANSAS STATE POLICE

1 State Police Plaza Drive Little Rock, Arkansas 72209-4822 www.asp.arkansas.gov

"SERVING WITH PRIDE AND DISTINCTION SINCE 1935"



Winford E. Phillips
Director

**ARKANSAS
STATE POLICE
COMMISSION**

John Allison
Chairman
Conway

Steve G. Smith
Vice-Chairman
Little Rock

Jane Christenson
Secretary
Harrison

Daniel "Woody" Futrell
Nashville

Wallace Fowler
Jonesboro

Frank Guinn, Jr.
Paragould

Dr. Lewis Shepherd
Arkadelphia

March 31, 2011

The Honorable Mike Beebe
Governor – State of Arkansas
State Capitol – Room 250
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Governor Beebe:

It was the last week of April, four years ago, I answered the most unexpected phone call of my life. You'll remember the hesitation in my voice as you made a request that would eventually change my life.

You asked a favor of me, to step away from retirement and return to the Arkansas State Police as its Director.

Thirty-eight years of my life had already been given to the Arkansas State Police. My final decision to your offer was based on how I answered one question. "Could I make the State Police a better department?"

Today the answer is "yes". The State Police is a better department than it was when I arrived, but this leads to another question, "Is it time for someone else, to continue in my role with a new vision and plan?"

One of my first initiatives is producing positive results. The State Police for the first time in its history has a procedure and process to identify every piece of state property assigned to the department which has resulted in some of the first positive state audits.

There has been no greater satisfaction in my career than my experience on Wednesday, March 23rd this year. The passage of Senate Bill 183, now Act 718. As you know, it authorizes new revenues to be infused into the department's retirement plan.

Without question, this has been the single most important piece of legislation for this department in its recent history. Early in my administration I became aware of the looming financial crisis caused by an unfunded balance that would eventually lead to the retirement plan failing. After many hours of planning and crafting legislation to secure the retirement plan the bill was drafted. I made it our priority for this most recent session.

During my tenure we have provided each Trooper with:

- **Online interface between patrol car computers and the State Police internal network and the Arkansas Crime Information Center.**
- **Initiated the development of an electronic ticketing system and eCrash software.**
- **Development of eAFIS that will eventually allow for remote identification checks during the initial stages of a criminal investigation.**
- **Assigned more than 100 new Troopers to fill vacant positions.**
- **Rifles and support training for every Trooper.**
- **Tint meters.**

In a supporting role we have deployed the following new or updated equipment:

- **Mobile Incident Command Center with supporting communication and administrative equipment.**
- **Ballistic Engineered Armored Response tactical vehicle (BEAR) for deployment of SWAT and extraction of hostages or endangered citizens.**
- **Bell 407 Helicopter and supporting technology.**
- **Cessna 206 fixed wing aircraft for enforcement and support transportation.**

The State Police under my direction has also grown and improved its physical facilities:

- **Construction and opening of the new Troop K Headquarters located at Hot Springs.**
- **Acquired and modernized a new aircraft hangar now owned by the State Police to house its aircraft and mobile support vehicles.**
- **A memorial hall of honor for the 19 Arkansas State Troopers killed in the line of duty.**
- **Criminal intelligence fusion center opened to serve all Arkansas law enforcement agencies.**
- **Extended across the state new supporting services and provided a statewide computer network designed to assist local law enforcement agencies in the investigation of computer crimes.**
- **Opened a department computer laboratory to aid and train staff in the operation of new technologies.**
- **Staffed a trained force of Concerns for Police Survivors to assist State Troopers and other law enforcement officers faced with in-service officer deaths.**

I've been a part of the Arkansas State Police for 42 of the department's 76 year history, and today I proudly proclaim the State Police is operating and serving the people of this great state better than ever before.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve under the leadership of your office, however I wish to tender my resignation as Director of the Arkansas State Police, effective 5 PM on Friday, April 8, 2011.

Through this correspondence I want to extend my personal appreciation to you, your staff, the State Police Commission, members of the General Assembly, and elected state, county and city officials across Arkansas.

I will always cherish the friendship you and I will continue to share the remainder of our lives. Your personal assistance, encouragement and support in my role as State Police Colonel have proven time and again to be invaluable.

Governor Beebe
March 31, 2011
Page 4

But with all due respect, Governor Beebe, more important to me these past four years are the representatives of my staff and commanders and those men and women who wear the uniform and badge of the Arkansas State Police. Without these individuals, none of the accomplishments I've enumerated could have occurred. It is this group of individuals I wish to stand before and salute and humbly say, thank you.

Sincerely,

Winford E. Phillips
Colonel

WEP:dk